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Intelligence Community Staff

DCI/ICS 83-3393

24 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: SIG(I) Committee on Priorities

FROM:

Executive Secretary, SIG(I)

SUBJECT: Minutes of 11 May 1983 Committee on Priorities Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

The Chairman, Mr. McMahon, opened discussion by highlighting the work done in preparation for the meeting, noting in particular the IPC Staff assessment of intelligence production against NITs for the quarter ending 1 April 1983. He asked that members give their views on whether any current NITs might be eliminated, and he solicited comments on intelligence gaps.

At the Chairman's request, Mr. Richard Kerr, Chairman, Intelligence Producers Council, explained the content and purpose of the materials provided for the meeting, noting that development of the package was based on the Committee's earlier guidance. He said the package was designed in a way to elicit Committee consensus to accept or not accept IPC judgments contained therein and to facilitate Committee attention to specific issues--not merely to deal with form and numbers.

In response to an observation by Mr. Hugh Montgomery, D/INR/State, that NITs and production response to them are likely to remain behind the power curve of current events, Mr. Kerr advised that the NITs process is aimed at policy-level needs just beyond current. [redacted] D/ICS, added that the process is not intended to reflect fast-breaking events. Mr. Montgomery opined, however, in this regard that separating NITs into two categories (A-six months and B-twelve months) has merit.

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Mr. Ron Stivers, representing the Under Secretary of Defense, questioned the advisability of IPC Staff judgment on whether or not a given NIT has been satisfied; he said such determinations belong with the intelligence consumers. Mr. Kerr agreed but underscored that the IPC Staff package is intended as a "strawman" only and is aimed at drawing out such Committee concerns. Mr. McMahon added that this method is meant to put forth a "challenge" to policy-level consumers regarding the satisfaction of NITs.

Mr. Peter Oleson, representing the Chairman, JCS, expressed his view that the formula for review needs more refinement, and noted that the review schedule as proposed in the IPC Staff package is problematical. He added that more specificity should be elicited from policymakers regarding each NIT,

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i.e., knowing who is asking the question and a more precise way of knowing if and how well a given NIT has been answered. In response, Mr. Kerr agreed with Mr. Oleson's aim for specificity but explained difficulties of past experiences in this regard.

The Chairman asked Committee members if any of the current NITs could be canceled. Members suggested none for elimination. In the discussion that followed, Mr. Stivers and Mr. Oleson addressed NIT #8 (Soviet Space Systems) and several others which have not yet been satisfied adequately. It was concluded that difficulties in many instances are due to lack of specificity in the NIT statement, and that, henceforth, NITs should be cast in a way that will make them more "doable" and permit measurable progress in each case. Mr. Oleson said that, in the JCS area, attempts at specificity are often a painful process, but should be tried, even to considering sub-NITs. Mr. Kerr said sub-NITs in some cases might be useful.

Mr. Ken deGraffenreid, representing the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, introduced Mr. Richard Beal who is to become Special Assistant to the President for Crisis Management and Planning. In contrast to Mr. Oleson's concerns for specificity, Mr. deGraffenreid said NIT-related questions from NSC staffers are often quite specific and that he has advised his colleagues that NITs should be expressed in a sort of middle ground, allowing for some flexibility in production response. He noted also a need for opportunity intelligence that might serve in developing creative initiatives for U.S. foreign policy--or ways to do more than simply react to crises.

Mr. John Walker, representing the Under Secretary of Treasury, observed that, overall, the NITs bear a "Soviet cast" and that priority intelligence concerns of Treasury extend to many other countries. He specified Treasury's particular interests in international financial operations, transfer of critical technologies, the narcotics problem, and law enforcement. He said he would look into ways for fitting these concerns into the NIT structure, which at the moment, does not appear to encompass these concerns well enough. In response, Mr. Kerr suggested that Treasury present some NITs reflecting specific concerns for Committee consideration.

Mr. Herman Roser, representing the Under Secretary of Energy, echoed the type of specialized concerns expressed by Mr. Walker--that the Department of Energy has a deep interest in a variety of nuclear and nuclear-related matters in the foreign environment. Mr. Kerr noted that it would be helpful to develop nuclear concerns that are more specific, e.g., oriented by country.

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Mr. Montgomery, referring to Secretary Shultz's trip to the Middle East, indicated that such trips by the Secretary may become very useful in refining certain NITs and may enable the Committee to anticipate future NITs.

It was generally accepted that Committee review of intelligence requirements and priorities be conducted semi-annually instead of quarterly, that NITs be categorized (A and B) as recommended by the IPC Staff, that statement of NITs be refined, and that the proposed NIT Schedule and Actions be adjusted. The 15 June deadline for inputs as issued on 5 May by the IPC Staff was viewed as unrealistic. Mr. Stivers suggested that further refinements in the review process could be worked out at staff levels.

The Chairman expressed his appreciation for members' views and adjourned the meeting.

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SIG(I) COMMITTEE ON PRIORITIES

11 May 1983

Attendees:

	Mr. John McMahon, DDCI (Chmn)
Dep. Asst. to Pres.	Mr. Ken deGraffenreid
State	Mr. Hugh Montgomery
Defense	Mr. Ron Stivers
Treasury	Mr. John Walker
Commerce	Mr. Sherman Unger
Energy	Mr. Herman Roser
JCS	Mr. Peter Oleson
ICS	[REDACTED]
Chmn, IPC	Mr. Richard Kerr

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(Mr. deGraffenreid was accompanied by Mr. Richard Beal, Special Assistant to the President for Crisis Management and Planning who attended as an observer.)

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Distribution: (ICS 83-3393)

- 1 - Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs (Mr. deGraffenreid)
- 1 - Under Secretary of State (Mr. Montgomery)
- 1 - Under Secretary of Defense (Mr. Stivers)
- 1 - Under Secretary of Treasury (Mr. Walker)
- 1 - Under Secretary of Commerce (Mr. Unger)
- 1 - Under Secretary of Energy (Mr. Roser)
- 1 - Senior Representative of the Chairman,
Joint Chiefs of Staff (Mr. Oleson)
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ES/SIG(I) (24 May 83)